

Mayor Mallory's Message for the Week, January 1, 2007

January is National Mentoring Month

January is National Mentoring Month. Each year, we celebrate the importance of mentoring and the powerful effect that a committed caring adult can have on the lives of youth. From public safety and drugs to poverty and economic development, many of the challenges that our city faces can be improved by focusing on youth development.

I have made youth development and mentoring a priority in my administration, launching the Mayor's Mentoring Initiative to recruit city employees to become mentors. Our city employees are responding and stepping up to help improve the lives of Cincinnati's children. With their commitment to public service, city employees make excellent role models and potential mentors.

The Mayor's Mentoring Initiative has already matched 50 city employees with mentees. The goal of the program is to sign up 10% of the city's over 6,000 employees.

I encourage every citizen to think about the adults who helped them when they were growing up. Everyone deserves this type of positive influence in their life. According to the National Mentoring Partnership, teens with mentors are 46% less likely to use drugs and 59 % more likely to get better grades.

If you are already a mentor – Thank you and make sure that you spend some time with your mentee this month.

If you are not a mentor, I encourage you to get involved in the life of a child and become a mentor. You can have a truly life-changing effect on someone's life, and you will be surprised at the positive effect on your life as well.

– Mayor Mark Mallory

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- Read more about the [Mayor's Mentoring Initiative](#).
 - Learn more about the [benefits of mentoring](#).
 - [Cincinnati Youth Collaborative](#)
 - [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#)
 - Read Mayor Mallory's [National Mentoring Month Proclamation](#).